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# PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

HERE'S THE WEB-SWINGER YOU DEMANDED! FIGHTING! JOKING! DEFYING DEATH IN A SAVAGE ROOFTOP BATTLE!

## RAVAGED BY THE RINGER!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter gained the arachnid's powers... and in effect, became a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!®

# RING OUT THE OLD, IN THE NEW!

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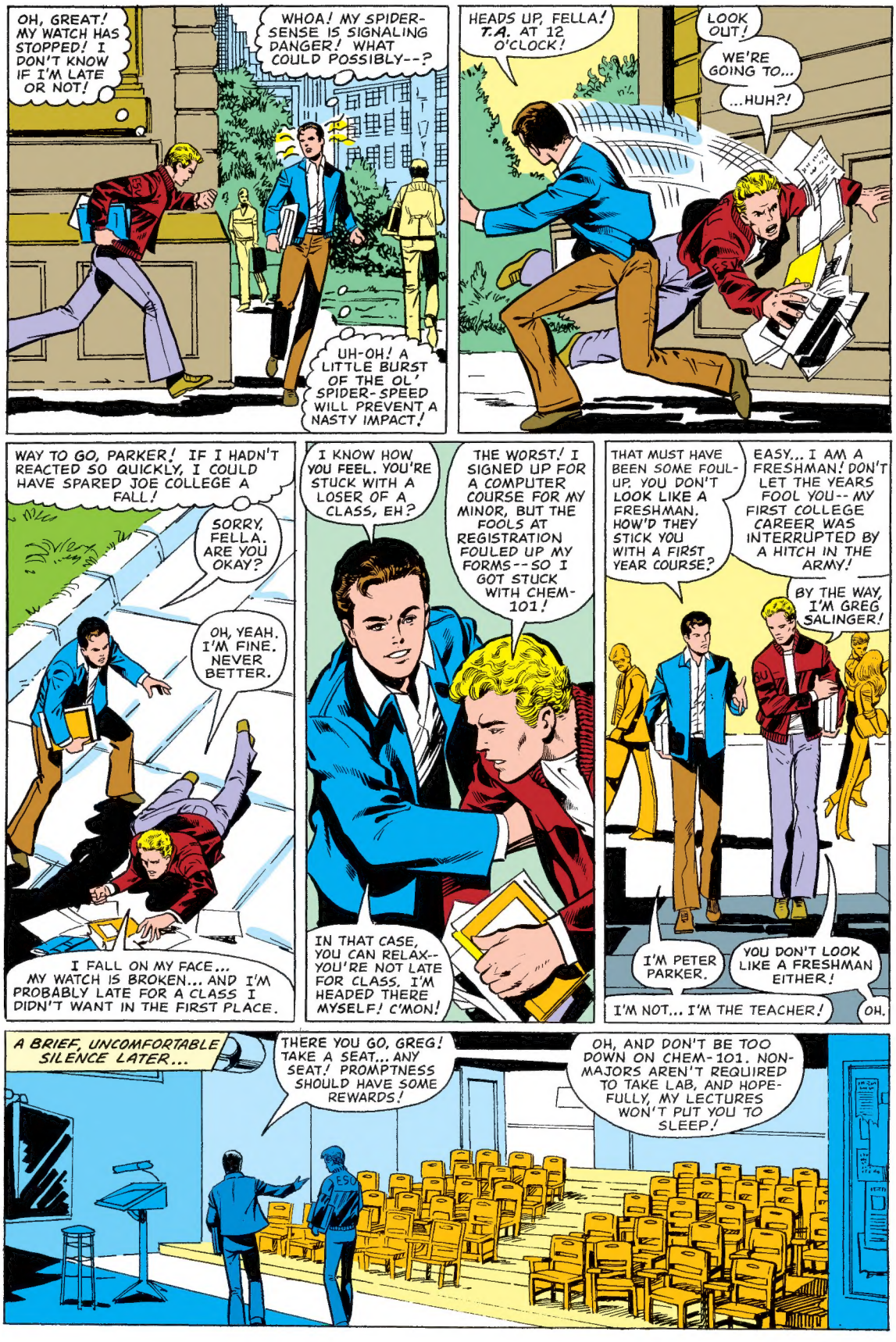
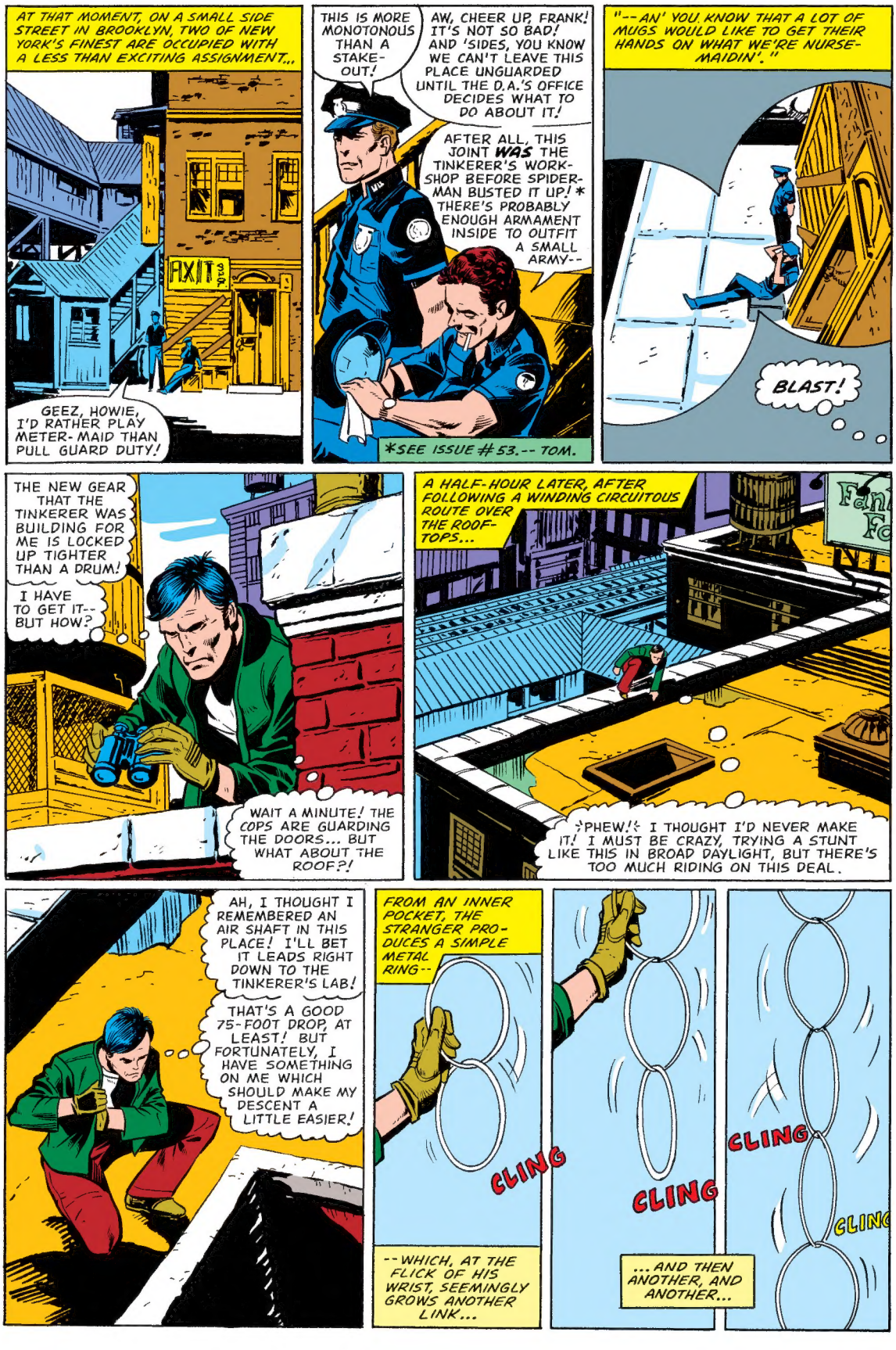
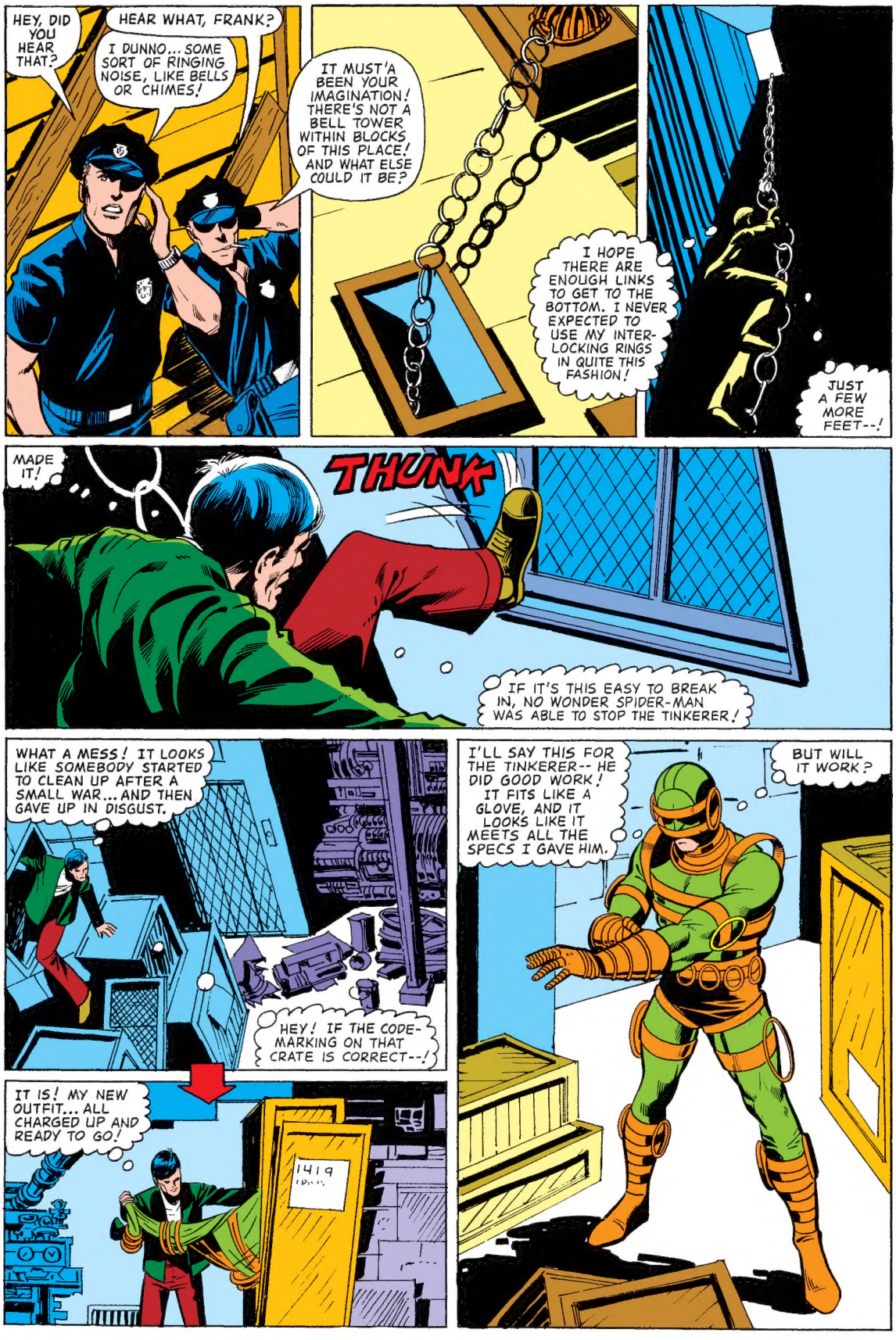
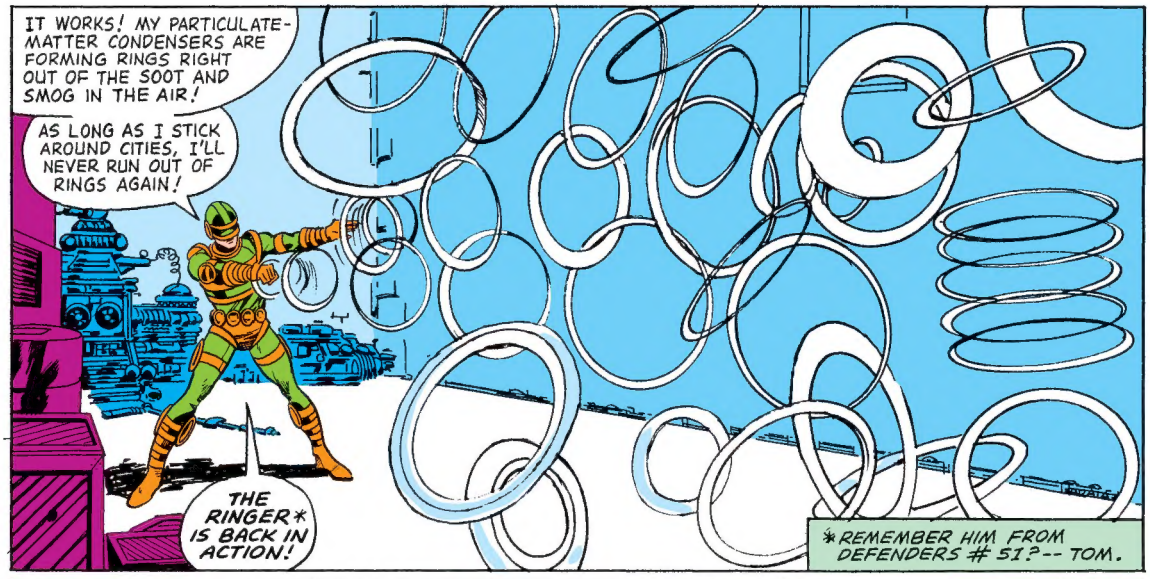

OH, GREAT! MY WATCH HAS STOPPED! I DON'T KNOW IF I'M LATE OR NOT!
WHOA! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SIGNALING DANGER! WHAT COULD POSSIBLY--?
UH-OH! A LITTLE BURST OF THE OL' SPIDER-SPEED WILL PREVENT A NASTY IMPACT!
HEADS UP, FELLA! T.A. AT 12 O'CLOCK!
LOOK OUT!
WE'RE GOING TO...
...HUH?!
WAY TO GO, PARKER! IF I HADN'T REACTED SO QUICKLY, I COULD HAVE SPARED JOE COLLEGE A FALL!
SORRY, FELLA. ARE YOU OKAY?
OH, YEAH. I'M FINE. NEVER BETTER.
I FALL ON MY FACE... MY WATCH IS BROKEN... AND I'M PROBABLY LATE FOR A CLASS I DIDN'T WANT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. YOU'RE STUCK WITH A LOSER OF A CLASS, EH?
THE WORST! I SIGNED UP FOR A COMPUTER COURSE FOR MY MINOR, BUT THE FOOLS AT REGISTRATION FOULED UP MY FORMS--SO I GOT STUCK WITH CHEM-101!
IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN RELAX--YOU'RE NOT LATE FOR CLASS. I'M HEADED THERE MYSELF! C'MON!
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME FOUL-UP. YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A FRESHMAN. HOW'D THEY STICK YOU WITH A FIRST YEAR COURSE?
EASY... I AM A FRESHMAN! DON'T LET THE YEARS FOOL YOU-- MY FIRST COLLEGE CAREER WAS INTERRUPTED BY A HITCH IN THE ARMY!
BY THE WAY, I'M GREG SALINGER!
I'M PETER PARKER.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A FRESHMAN EITHER!
I'M NOT... I'M THE TEACHER!
OH.
A BRIEF, UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE LATER...
THERE YOU GO, GREG! TAKE A SEAT... ANY SEAT! PROMPTNESS SHOULD HAVE SOME REWARDS!
OH, AND DON'T BE TOO DOWN ON CHEM-101. NON-MAJORS AREN'T REQUIRED TO TAKE LAB, AND HOPE-FULLY, MY LECTURES WON'T PUT YOU TO SLEEP!

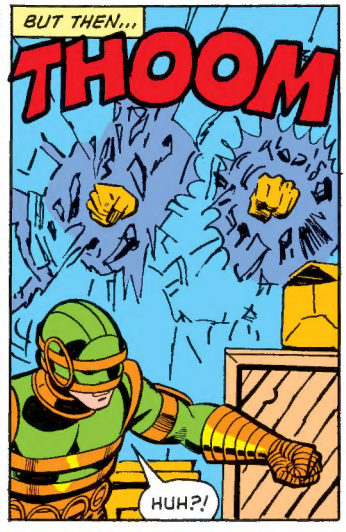

AT THAT MOMENT, ON A SMALL SIDE STREET IN BROOKLYN, TWO OF NEW YORK'S FINEST ARE OCCUPIED WITH A LESS THAN EXCITING ASSIGNMENT...
EXIT
GEEZ, HOWIE, I'D RATHER PLAY METER-MAID THAN PULL GUARD DUTY!
THIS IS MORE MONOTONOUS THAN A STAKE-OUT!
AW, CHEER UP, FRANK! IT'S NOT SO BAD! AND 'SIDES, YOU KNOW WE CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE UNGUARDED UNTIL THE D.A.'S OFFICE DECIDES WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT!
AFTER ALL, THIS JOINT WAS THE TINKERER'S WORKSHOP BEFORE SPIDER-MAN BUSTED IT UP! * THERE'S PROBABLY ENOUGH ARMAMENT INSIDE TO OUTFIT A SMALL ARMY--
*SEE ISSUE #53.-- TOM.
"--AN' YOU KNOW THAT A LOT OF MUGS WOULD LIKE TO GET THEIR HANDS ON WHAT WE'RE NURSE-MAIDIN'."
BLAST!
THE NEW GEAR THAT THE TINKERER WAS BUILDING FOR ME IS LOCKED UP TIGHTER THAN A DRUM!
I HAVE TO GET IT-- BUT HOW?
WAIT A MINUTE! THE COPS ARE GUARDING THE DOORS... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ROOF?!
A HALF-HOUR LATER, AFTER FOLLOWING A WINDING CIRCUITOUS ROUTE OVER THE ROOF-TOPS...
PHEW! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER MAKE IT! I MUST BE CRAZY, TRYING A STUNT LIKE THIS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH RIDING ON THIS DEAL.
AH, I THOUGHT I REMEMBERED AN AIR SHAFT IN THIS PLACE! I'LL BET IT LEADS RIGHT DOWN TO THE TINKERER'S LAB!
THAT'S A GOOD 75-FOOT DROP, AT LEAST! BUT FORTUNATELY, I HAVE SOMETHING ON ME WHICH SHOULD MAKE MY DESCENT A LITTLE EASIER!
FROM AN INNER POCKET, THE STRANGER PRODUCES A SIMPLE METAL RING--
CLING
--WHICH, AT THE FLICK OF HIS WRIST, SEEMINGLY GROWS ANOTHER LINK...
CLING
... AND THEN ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER...
CLING
CLING


HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HEAR WHAT, FRANK?
I DUNNO... SOME SORT OF RINGING NOISE, LIKE BELLS OR CHIMES!
IT MUST'A BEEN YOUR IMAGINATION! THERE'S NOT A BELL TOWER WITHIN BLOCKS OF THIS PLACE! AND WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
I HOPE THERE ARE ENOUGH LINKS TO GET TO THE BOTTOM. I NEVER EXPECTED TO USE MY INTER-LOCKING RINGS IN QUITE THIS FASHION!
JUST A FEW MORE FEET--!
MADE IT!
THUNK
IF IT'S THIS EASY TO BREAK IN, NO WONDER SPIDER-MAN WAS ABLE TO STOP THE TINKERER!
WHAT A MESS! IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY STARTED TO CLEAN UP AFTER A SMALL WAR... AND THEN GAVE UP IN DISGUST.
HEY! IF THE CODE-MARKING ON THAT CRATE IS CORRECT--!
IT IS! MY NEW OUTFIT... ALL CHARGED UP AND READY TO GO!
1419
I'LL SAY THIS FOR THE TINKERER-- HE DID GOOD WORK! IT FITS LIKE A GLOVE, AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT MEETS ALL THE SPECS I GAVE HIM.
BUT WILL IT WORK?

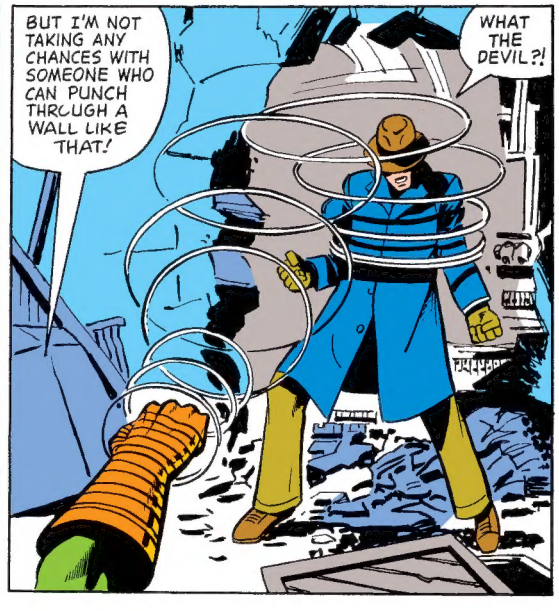

IT WORKS! MY PARTICULATE-MATTER CONDENSERS ARE FORMING RINGS RIGHT OUT OF THE SOOT AND SMOG IN THE AIR!
AS LONG AS I STICK AROUND CITIES, I'LL NEVER RUN OUT OF RINGS AGAIN!
THE RINGER* IS BACK IN ACTION!
*REMEMBER HIM FROM DEFENDERS # 51?-- TOM.

AW, WHO AM I KIDDING? I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR A LIFE OF CRIME! THE ONLY REASON I HAD THIS NEW SUIT BUILT WAS SO I COULD PEDDLE IT TO MY BUSINESS CONTACTS!
JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE NOWADAYS, I'M SELLING OUT!

AND NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, MAYBE THERE'S MORE STUFF HERE THAT I COULD SELL!
I WONDER WHAT'S IN THIS CRATE?


BUT THEN...
THOOM
HUH?!

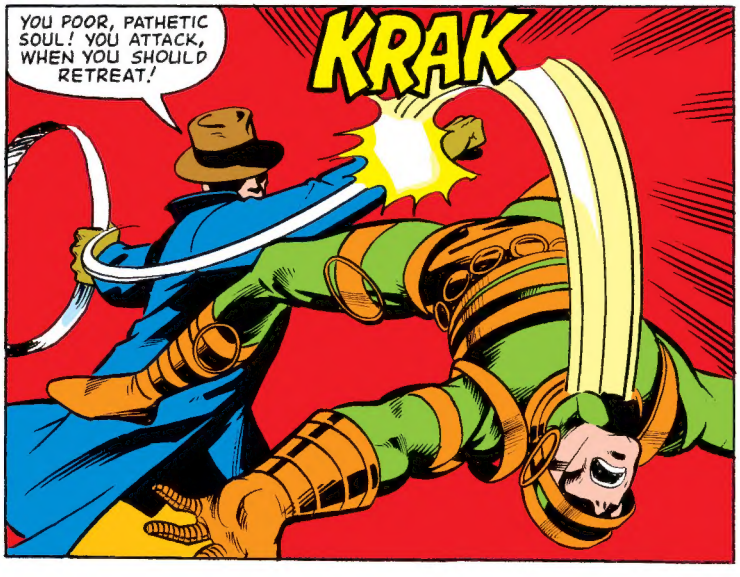
GET AWAY FROM THAT CRATE!!
GOOD GRIEF! THAT GUY JUST RIPPED THROUGH SOLID CONCRETE!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, PAL--

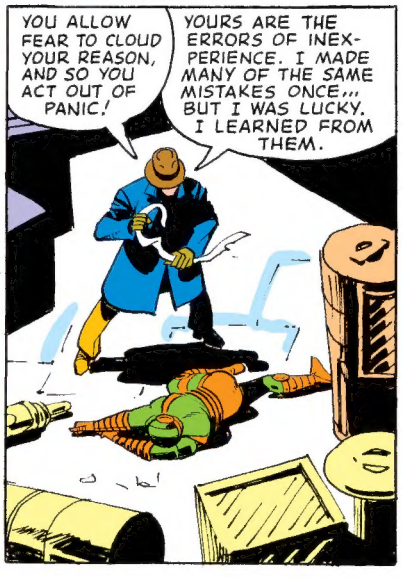

BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN PUNCH THROUGH A WALL LIKE THAT!
WHAT THE DEVIL?!

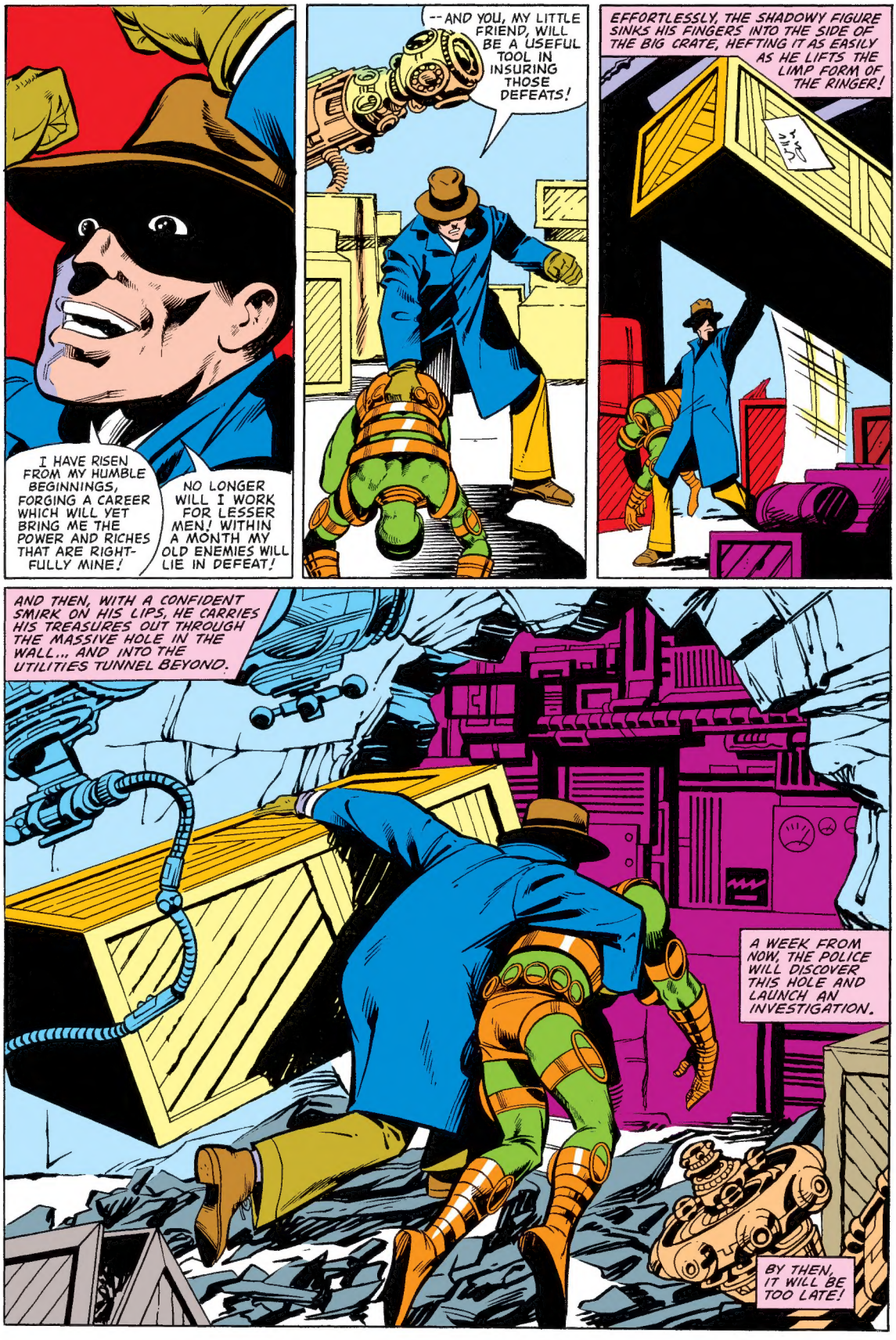
THAT'S QUITE A WEAPONS SYSTEM YOU HAVE! BUT I'M AFRAID IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD!
I DON'T BELIVE IT! THOSE CONSTRICTING RINGS SHOULD'VE CRUSHED HIM LIKE AN EGGSHELL! THIS GUY MUST HAVE A HIDE LIKE A BATTLESHIP!

THESE RINGS ARE VERY INTERESTING! CONDENSED PARTICULATE MATTER, AREN'T THEY? AND WITH A TENSILE STRENGTH APPROACHING THAT OF STEEL!
YES, MOST INGENIOUS! I DARE SAY THAT ANYONE ELSE WOULD BE QUITE HELPLESS!
KROOON

NO! GET BACK... KEEP AWAY!

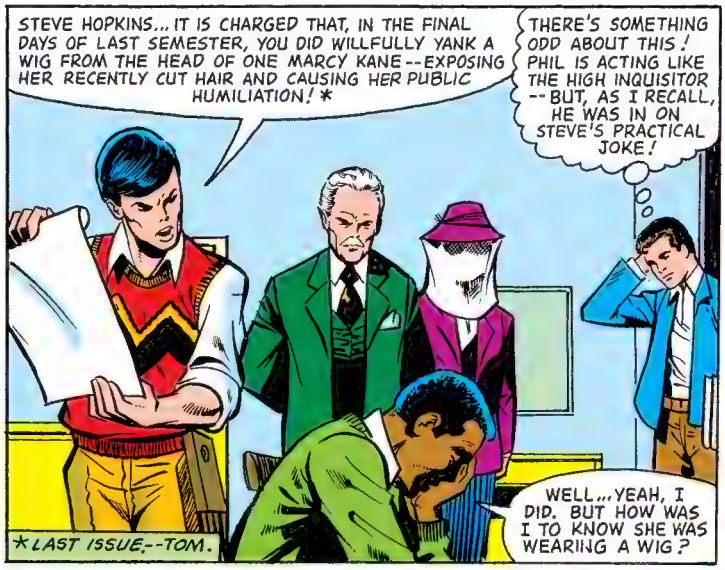

YOU POOR, PATHETIC SOUL! YOU ATTACK, WHEN YOU SHOULD RETREAT!
KRAK


YOU ALLOW FEAR TO CLOUD YOUR REASON, AND SO YOU ACT OUT OF PANIC!
YOURS ARE THE ERRORS OF INEXPERIENCE. I MADE MANY OF THE SAME MISTAKES ONCE... BUT I WAS LUCKY. I LEARNED FROM THEM.

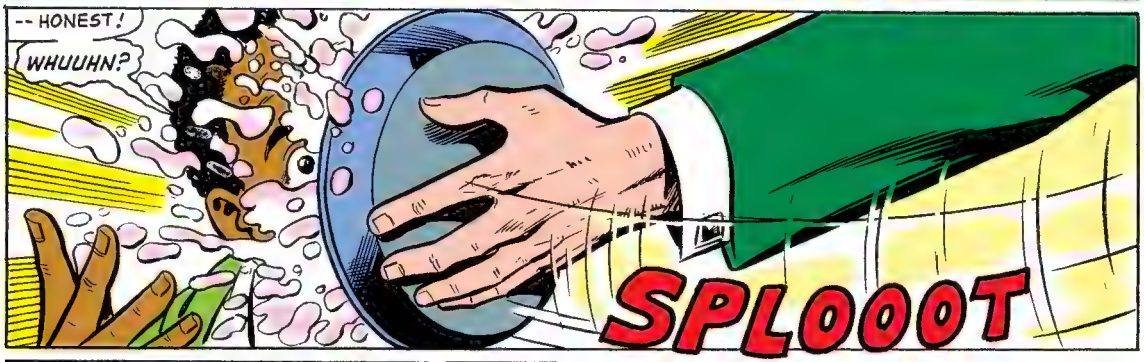

I HAVE RISEN FROM MY HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, FORGING A CAREER WHICH WILL YET BRING ME THE POWER AND RICHES THAT ARE RIGHTFULLY MINE!
NO LONGER WILL I WORK FOR LESSER MEN! WITHIN A MONTH MY OLD ENEMIES WILL LIE IN DEFEAT!
--AND YOU, MY LITTLE FRIEND, WILL BE A USEFUL TOOL IN INSURING THOSE DEFEATS!
EFFORTLESSLY, THE SHADOWY FIGURE SINKS HIS FINGERS INTO THE SIDE OF THE BIG CRATE, HEFTING IT AS EASILY AS HE LIFTS THE LIMP FORM OF THE RINGER!
AND THEN, WITH A CONFIDENT SMIRK ON HIS LIPS, HE CARRIES HIS TREASURES OUT THROUGH THE MASSIVE HOLE IN THE WALL... AND INTO THE UTILITIES TUNNEL BEYOND.
A WEEK FROM NOW, THE POLICE WILL DISCOVER THIS HOLE AND LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION.
BY THEN, IT WILL BE TOO LATE!

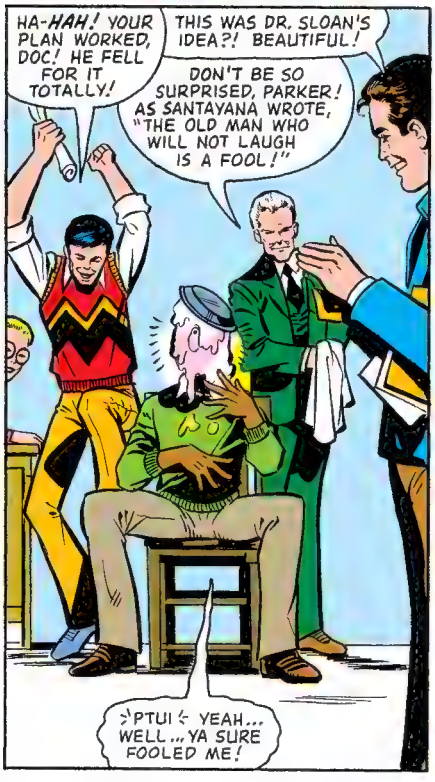
ELSEWHERE...
SPIDER-MAN!!
READ THE DAILY
WHO IS HE? WHAT IS HE?!
WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF HIS AMAZING POWERS?
I'M FELIX SIMON! JOIN ME THIS SEASON, WHEN I PROBE THE ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS, AS WE GO...
...ON THE TRAIL OF... SPIDER-MAN!"
"ON THE TRAIL OF..." WITH FELIX SIMON, WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30! THIS WEEK JOIN FELIX... "ON THE TRAIL OF THE LOCH TREVOR MONSTER!"
ON THE TRAIL OF SPIDER-MAN
LOCH TREVOR MONSTER?! ARE THEY KIDDING?
PROBABLY!
"CHUCKWAGON THEATER" WITH COWBOY BOB IS NEXT!
ALRIGHT! BRING ON THE CARTOONS!
PARKER, THAT LECTURE WAS FANTASTIC! I NEVER KNEW THAT CHEMISTRY COULD BE SO INTERESTING!
I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT, GREG-- THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE PAYING ME FOR!
NO, REALLY! I'D NEVER REALIZED THE CLASSICAL NATURE OF CHEMISTRY BEFORE!

ALL THAT STUFF YOU BROUGHT UP ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT FROM ALCHEMY... AND OLD ROGER BACON, EXPERIMENTING IN HIS MONK'S CELL...
IF YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS SOMETHING, WAIT UNTIL WE GET INTO THE LIVES OF JOSEPH PRIESTLY AND HENRY CAVENDISH!
WELL, SEE YOU IN CLASS!
...WELL, IT WAS SHEER POETRY!
COUNT ON IT!
ESU
GREG
WHAT A CHARACTER! HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE GUY, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE WHO WAS SO INTENSE!
TA OFFICE
UH-OH! SPEAKING OF INTENSE--!
HI, DEB... STEVE... PHIL? WHAT'S UP?
COME ON IN, PARKER, AND CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU! WE'RE ABOUT TO DECIDE THE FATE OF MR. HOPKINS HERE!
AW, GEEZ, PHIL... I SAID I WAS SORRY!
BEING SORRY ISN'T ENOUGH, STEVE! THIS IS A MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL CONCERN!
CSW
YOU STEPPED FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF HARMLESS PRACTICAL JOKES, AND CAUSED A LOT OF EMBARRASSMENT FOR A FELLOW TEACHING ASSISTANT!
DR. SLOAN, WILL YOU PLEASE ESCORT THE VICTIM FORWARD?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MY DEAR! DON'T WORRY.
HERE ARE THE FORMAL CHARGES, PHILIP!
I HOPE THEY THROW THE BOOK AT YOU, STEVE! ACADEMIC PROBATION'S TOO GOOD FOR YOU!
I'M SURE THAT WE'LL FIND A SUITABLE PUNISHMENT, DEB!

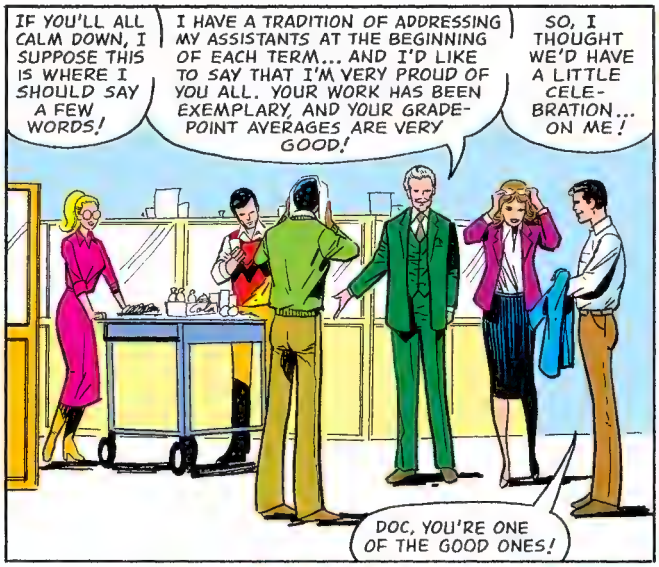

STEVE HOPKINS... IT IS CHARGED THAT, IN THE FINAL DAYS OF LAST SEMESTER, YOU DID WILLFULLY YANK A WIG FROM THE HEAD OF ONE MARCY KANE--EXPOSING HER RECENTLY CUT HAIR AND CAUSING HER PUBLIC HUMILIATION! *
THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THIS! PHIL IS ACTING LIKE THE HIGH INQUISITOR --BUT, AS I RECALL, HE WAS IN ON STEVE'S PRACTICAL JOKE!
WELL... YEAH, I DID. BUT HOW WAS I TO KNOW SHE WAS WEARING A WIG?
*LAST ISSUE,--TOM.

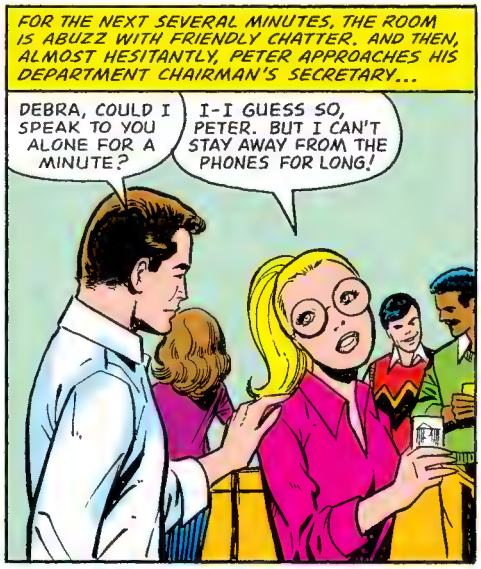
IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE! WE HAVE ONLY ONE RECOURSE IN THIS CASE. DR. SLOAN... THIS IS IN YOUR HANDS!

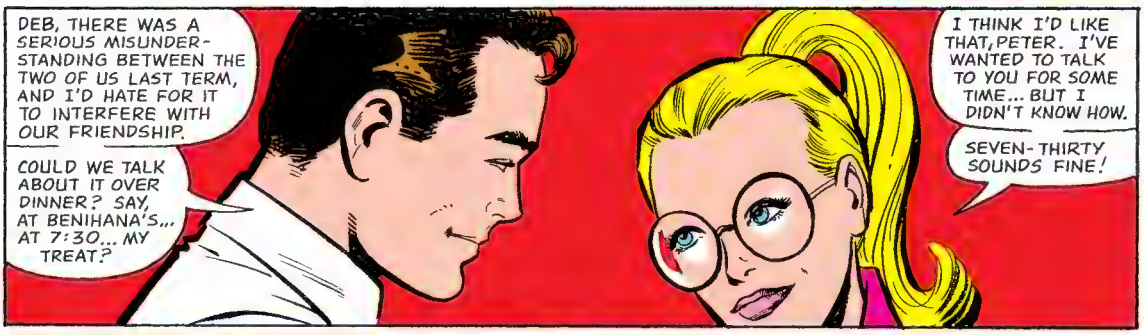

--HONEST!
WHUUHN?
SPLOOOT


HA-HAH! YOUR PLAN WORKED, DOC! HE FELL FOR IT TOTALLY!
THIS WAS DR. SLOAN'S IDEA?! BEAUTIFUL!
DON'T BE SO SURPRISED, PARKER! AS SANTAYANA WROTE, "THE OLD MAN WHO WILL NOT LAUGH IS A FOOL!"
:PTUI! YEAH... WELL... YA SURE FOOLED ME!

AND NOW THAT COURT IS ADJOURNED, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THE UNVEILING OF THE SENSATIONAL NEW MARCY KANE!
TA-DAH! I'D LIKE TO THANK MOTHER NATURE FOR BLESSING ME WITH FAST-GROWING HAIR, AND MY HAIRDRESSER FOR MAKING THIS ALL POSSIBLE!
ISN'T SHE GREAT, FOLKS? YOU'LL LOVE HER EVEN MORE AS A BRUNETTE THAN YOU DID AS A BLONDE! YOW-SAH!

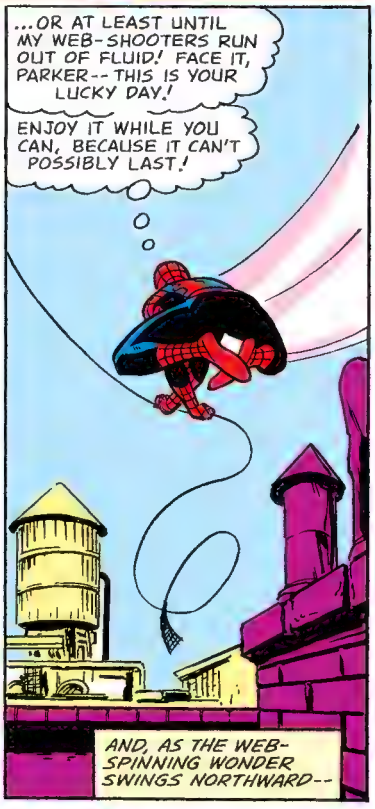

IF YOU'LL ALL CALM DOWN, I SUPPOSE THIS IS WHERE I SHOULD SAY A FEW WORDS!
I HAVE A TRADITION OF ADDRESSING MY ASSISTANTS AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH TERM... AND I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU ALL. YOUR WORK HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY, AND YOUR GRADE-POINT AVERAGES ARE VERY GOOD!
SO, I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A LITTLE CELEBRATION... ON ME!
DOC, YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD ONES!


FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MINUTES, THE ROOM IS ABUZZ WITH FRIENDLY CHATTER. AND THEN, ALMOST HESITANTLY, PETER APPROACHES HIS DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY...
DEBRA, COULD I SPEAK TO YOU ALONE FOR A MINUTE?
I-I GUESS SO, PETER. BUT I CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM THE PHONES FOR LONG!

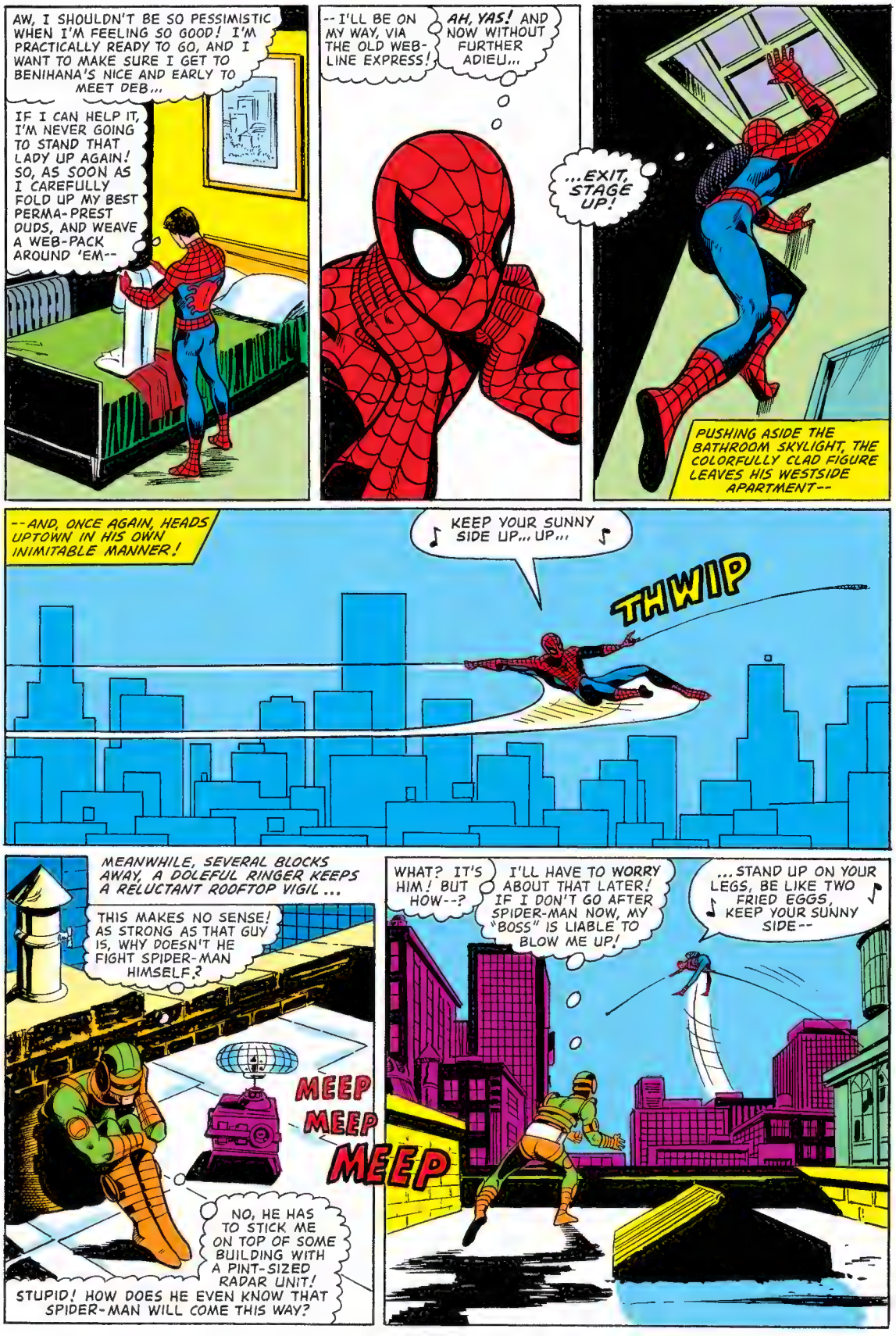

DEB, THERE WAS A SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO OF US LAST TERM, AND I'D HATE FOR IT TO INTERFERE WITH OUR FRIENDSHIP.
COULD WE TALK ABOUT IT OVER DINNER? SAY, AT BENIHANA'S... AT 7:30... MY TREAT?
I THINK I'D LIKE THAT, PETER. I'VE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU FOR SOME TIME... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW.
SEVEN-THIRTY SOUNDS FINE!

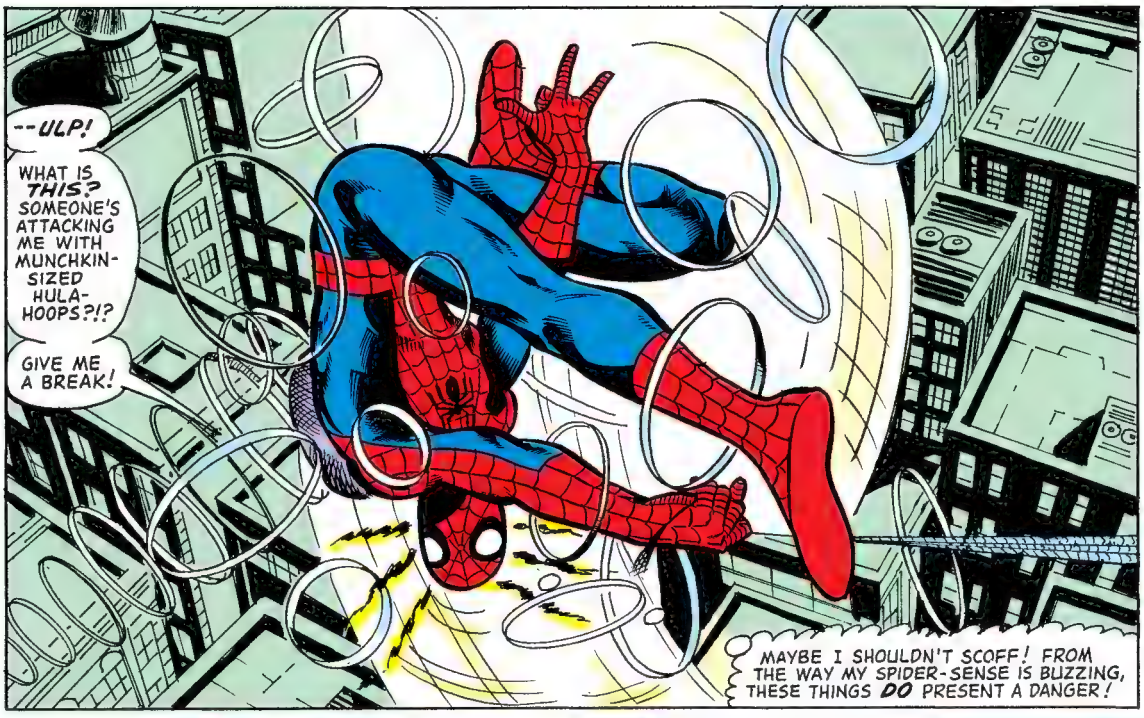
MINUTES LATER, THE YOUNG GRAD STUDENT TAKES TO THE MANHATTAN SKIES IN SOMEWHAT MORE COLORFUL GARB...
YAH-HOO! IT'S GREAT TO BE ALIVE! I HAVE A DATE FOR DINNER, MONEY IN MY POCKET--
THWIP

--AND AN AFTERNOON WITHOUT CLASSES! I'M FREE TO LEAP AND GAMBOL TO MY HEART'S CONTENT...
THWIP


...OR AT LEAST UNTIL MY WEB-SHOOTERS RUN OUT OF FLUID! FACE IT, PARKER--THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY!
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, BECAUSE IT CAN'T POSSIBLY LAST!
AND, AS THE WEB-SPINNING WONDER SWINGS NORTHWARD--

--IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, THE RINGER FIGHTS HIS WAY BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS.
NO... NOT POSSIBLE...
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, RINGER!
HUH?! WHAT? HOW? WHERE?
SO MANY QUESTIONS! PERHAPS I'LL ANSWER A FEW, EH?
IF YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I KNEW YOUR NAME, IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN MUTTERING IT FOR THE LAST FIVE MINUTES. YOUR EGO IS ALMOST THE EQUAL OF MINE, IT WOULD SEEM.
AS TO WHERE YOU ARE... YOU'RE IN MY LAB, WHERE I'M ABOUT TO PREPARE YOU TO FIGHT SPIDER-MAN... FOR ME!
WHAT?! ME? OH, NO... NO WAY, MISTER!
A PRISON DOCTOR HAD TO REBUILD HALF OF MY TEETH AFTER THE LAST TIME I TANGLED WITH A SUPER HERO!* I'M NOT ABOUT TO FIGHT SPIDER-MAN!
*SEE DEFENDERS #51. -- T.
I'M NOT GIVING YOU A CHOICE IN THE MATTER, RINGER. IF YOU'LL CHECK YOUR MID-SECTION, YOU'LL NOTICE THAT YOU'RE WEARING AN EXTRA RING OF MY OWN DESIGN!
IT'S COMPOSED OF A POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE, WHICH I WILL GLADLY DETONATE... UNLESS YOU AGREE TO DO AS I SAY!
NO! Y-YOU'RE BLUFFING!
AM I? THEN WHY AM I STANDING IN THE SAFETY OF THIS PROTECTIVE BOOTH? ASK YOURSELF THAT!
AND THEN, ASK YOURSELF IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO TAKE THE CHANCE!
I GUESS I CAN'T.
GOOD. I KNEW WE COULD COME TO TERMS. NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY...
SOMETIME LATER, IN THE CHELSEA APARTMENT OF PETER PARKER...
WHAT A GREAT DAY! I JUST CAN'T GET OVER IT!
I HAVEN'T FELT THIS HAPPY SINCE MY UNDERGRAD DAYS!
I GUESS THAT, JUST BY THE LAW OF AVERAGES, THINGS HAD TO TURN OUT RIGHT FOR ME EVENTUALLY!
BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDERING WHAT'S ABOUT TO GO WRONG...

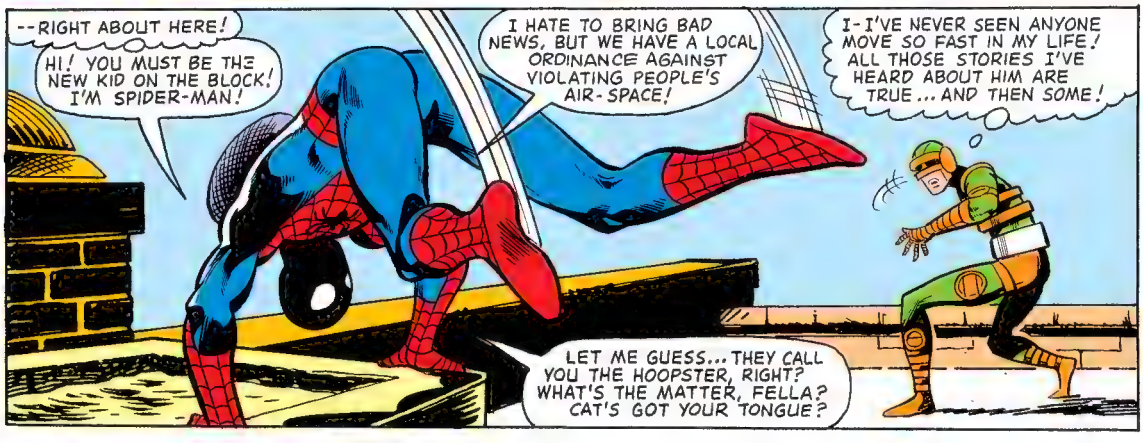

AW, I SHOULDN'T BE SO PESSIMISTIC WHEN I'M FEELING SO GOOD! I'M PRACTICALLY READY TO GO, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I GET TO BENIHANA'S NICE AND EARLY TO MEET DEB...
IF I CAN HELP IT, I'M NEVER GOING TO STAND THAT LADY UP AGAIN! SO, AS SOON AS I CAREFULLY FOLD UP MY BEST PERMA-PREST DUDS, AND WEAVE A WEB-PACK AROUND 'EM--
--I'LL BE ON MY WAY, VIA THE OLD WEB-LINE EXPRESS!
AH, YAS! AND NOW WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU...
...EXIT, STAGE UP!
PUSHING ASIDE THE BATHROOM SKYLIGHT, THE COLORFULLY CLAD FIGURE LEAVES HIS WESTSIDE APARTMENT--
--AND, ONCE AGAIN, HEADS UPTOWN IN HIS OWN INIMITABLE MANNER!
KEEP YOUR SUNNY SIDE UP... UP...
THWIP
MEANWHILE, SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY, A DOLEFUL RINGER KEEPS A RELUCTANT ROOFTOP VIGIL...
THIS MAKES NO SENSE! AS STRONG AS THAT GUY IS, WHY DOESN'T HE FIGHT SPIDER-MAN HIMSELF?
MEEP MEEP MEEP
NO, HE HAS TO STICK ME ON TOP OF SOME BUILDING WITH A PINT-SIZED RADAR UNIT!
STUPID! HOW DOES HE EVEN KNOW THAT SPIDER-MAN WILL COME THIS WAY?
WHAT? IT'S HIM! BUT HOW--?
I'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER! IF I DON'T GO AFTER SPIDER-MAN NOW, MY "BOSS" IS LIABLE TO BLOW ME UP!
...STAND UP ON YOUR LEGS, BE LIKE TWO FRIED EGGS, KEEP YOUR SUNNY SIDE--

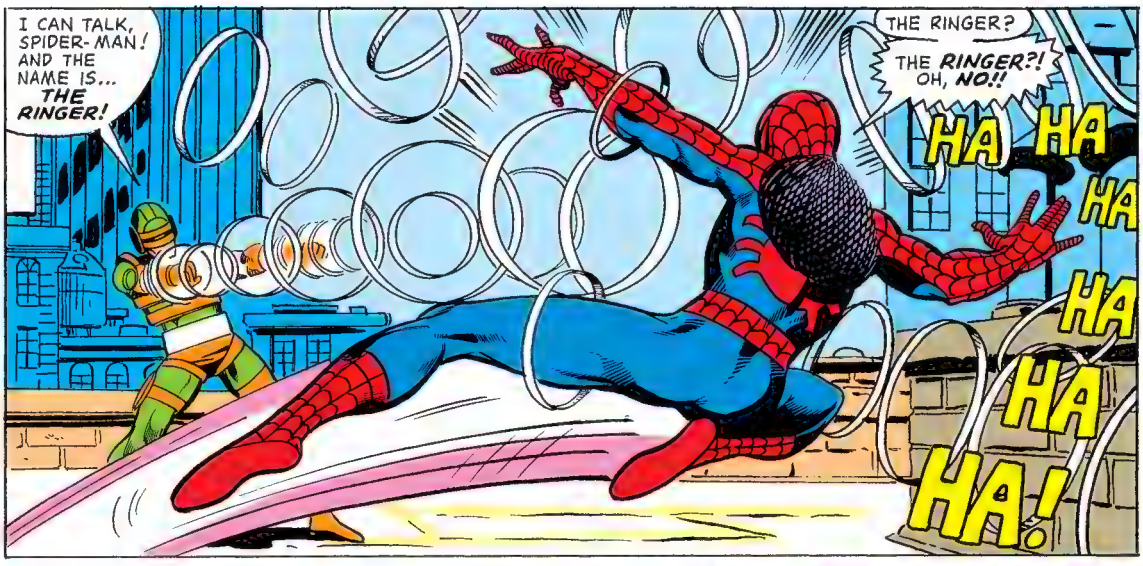

--ULP!
WHAT IS THIS? SOMEONE'S ATTACKING ME WITH MUNCHKIN-SIZED HULA-HOOPS?!?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T SCOFF! FROM THE WAY MY SPIDER-SENSE IS BUZZING, THESE THINGS DO PRESENT A DANGER!

BUT THERE'S A FAST WAY TO AVOID THEM! I'LL JUST LET GO OF MY WEB-LINE, AND LET GRAVITY DO THE REST!

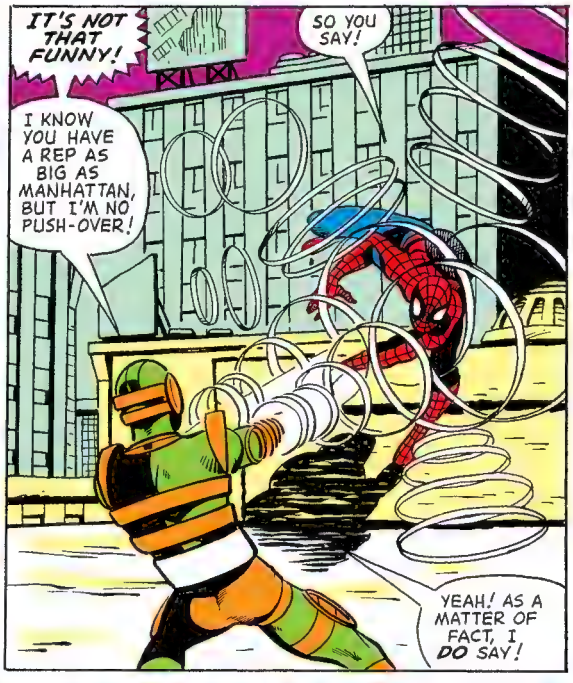
THWIP
AND THEN, WITH A COUPLE OF SHARP TAPS TO THE PALM-BUTTON OF MY WEB-SHOOTER--

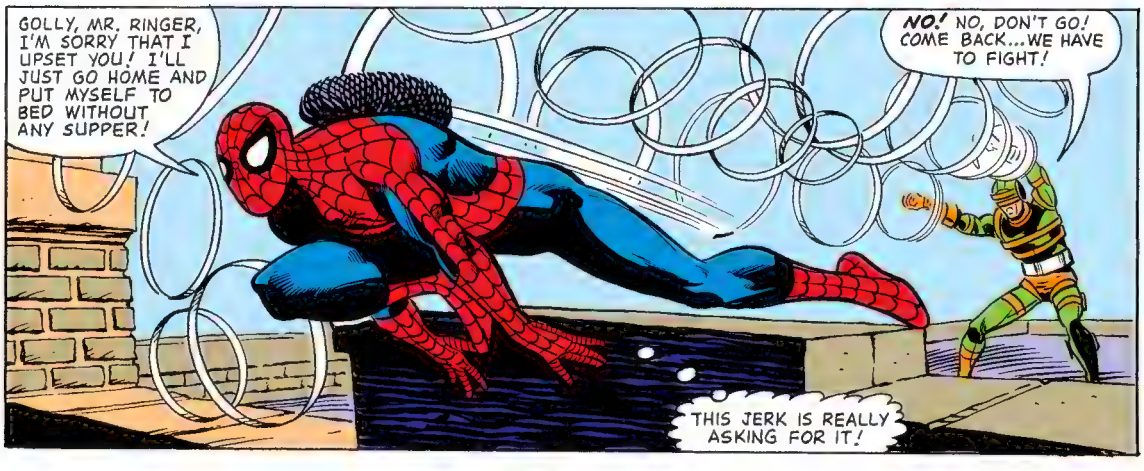
-- I'LL BE OFF TO FIND MY MYSTERY ASSAILANT!
JUDGING FROM THE ANGLE THAT THOSE HOOPS TOOK, I SHOULD FIND HIM--

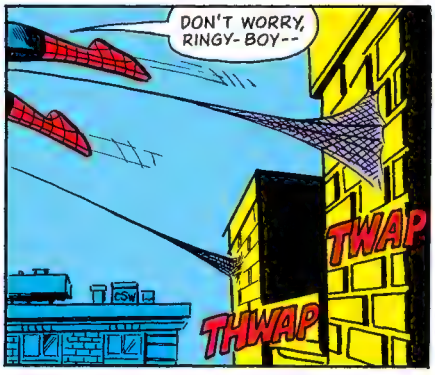

--RIGHT ABOUT HERE!
HI! YOU MUST BE THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK! I'M SPIDER-MAN!
I HATE TO BRING BAD NEWS, BUT WE HAVE A LOCAL ORDINANCE AGAINST VIOLATING PEOPLE'S AIR-SPACE!
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE MOVE SO FAST IN MY LIFE! ALL THOSE STORIES I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM ARE TRUE... AND THEN SOME!
LET ME GUESS... THEY CALL YOU THE HOOPSTER, RIGHT? WHAT'S THE MATTER, FELLA? CAT'S GOT YOUR TONGUE?

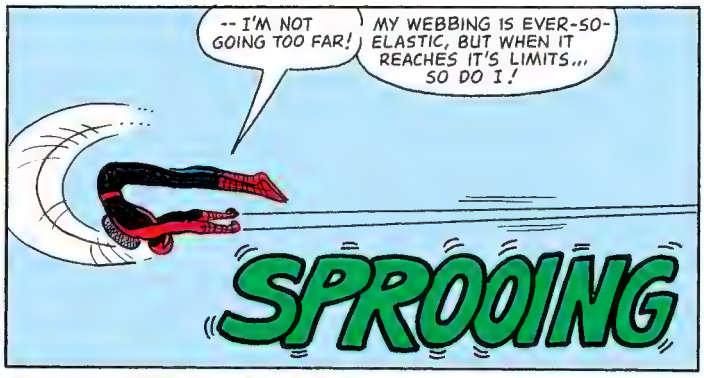

I CAN TALK, SPIDER-MAN! AND THE NAME IS... THE RINGER!
THE RINGER?
THE RINGER?! OH, NO!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!

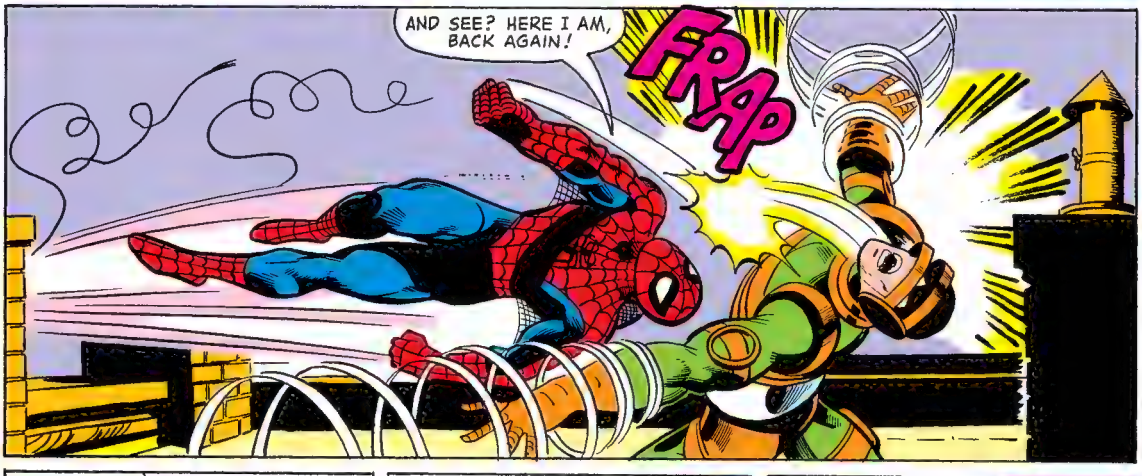
OH-HO-HO! PARDON ME FOR LAUGHING, PAL, BUT YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
SURE... I'VE FOUGHT GUYS WHO HAD MECHANICAL ARMS, AND HUMAN LIZARDS, AND BIG DUMB LUGS WHO CAN TURN INTO SAND... BUT REALLY! RINGS?!?
HE-HE HEE!


IT'S NOT THAT FUNNY!
SO YOU SAY!
I KNOW YOU HAVE A REP AS BIG AS MANHATTAN, BUT I'M NO PUSH-OVER!
YEAH! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO SAY!


GOLLY, MR. RINGER, I'M SORRY THAT I UPSET YOU! I'LL JUST GO HOME AND PUT MYSELF TO BED WITHOUT ANY SUPPER!
NO! NO, DON'T GO! COME BACK...WE HAVE TO FIGHT!
THIS JERK IS REALLY ASKING FOR IT!


DON'T WORRY, RINGY-BOY--
TWAP
THWAP


-- I'M NOT GOING TOO FAR!
MY WEBBING IS EVER-SO-ELASTIC, BUT WHEN IT REACHES IT'S LIMITS... SO DO I!
SPROOING

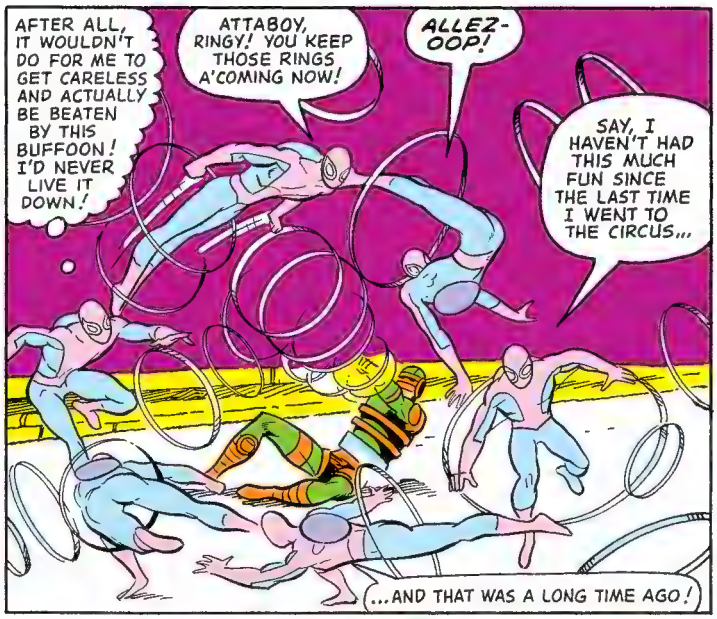

AND SEE? HERE I AM, BACK AGAIN!
FRAP

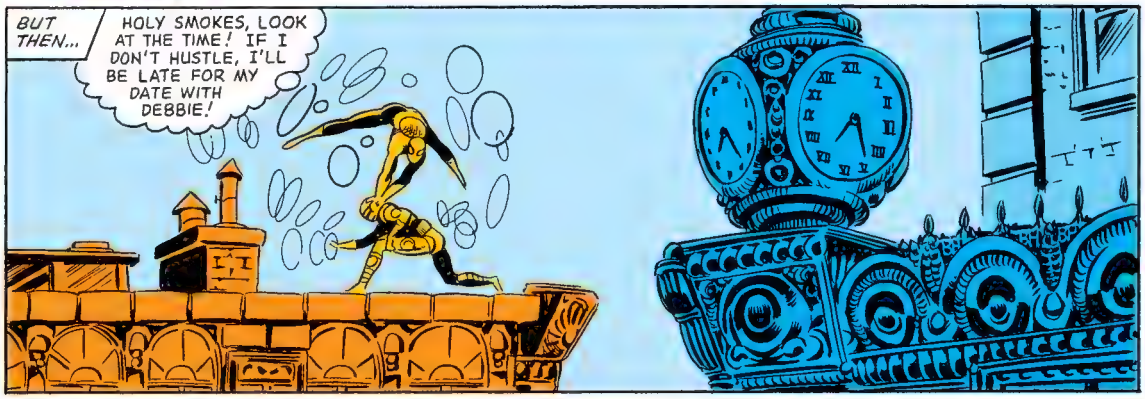
TSK-TSK! TRYING TO GET UP ALREADY? YOU ARE A PERSISTENT CUSS, AREN'T YOU?
YOU SHOULD BE MORE GRATEFUL! YOU SHOULD SAY, "THANK YOU, NICE SPIDER-MAN, FOR PULLING YOUR PUNCH AND NOT TAKING MY HEAD OFF!"
YOU LOUSY... URRPH!
MY TEETH!

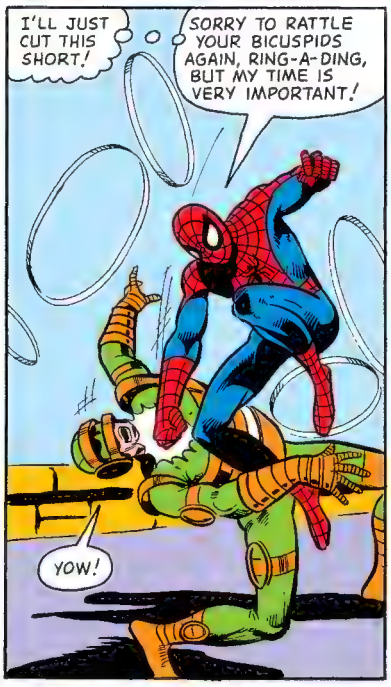
YOU BLASTED WISEACRE! IT'S NOT BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU MAKE FUN OF ME... NO, YOU HAVE TO GO AND LOOSEN EVERY CAP AND FILLING I HAVE!
I'LL BE IN THE DENTIST'S CHAIR FOR WEEKS, BECAUSE OF YOU!
WHUP! HE'S NIMBLER THAN I THOUGHT! HE CAUGHT ME IN MID-AIR, WHILE I WAS BUSY CLOWNING AROUND!

THERE, IT'S NOT SO FUNNY NOW, IS IT? MY FREEZE-RING WILL SLOW YOU DOWN LONG ENOUGH FOR A CONTRACTING RING TO WRING YOUR NECK! HAH-HA!
A-A-AND YOU C-COMPLAINED ABOUT MY SENSE OF HUMOR?

YOU JUST FORGOT ONE THING-- YOUR CORNY FREEZE-RING CAN'T HURT ME IF I BREAK OUT OF IT!
GLEEP!
HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT THING SLOWING ME DOWN, THOUGH. THAT PUNCH WAS PATHETIC!
I'D BETTER WARM UP FAST!

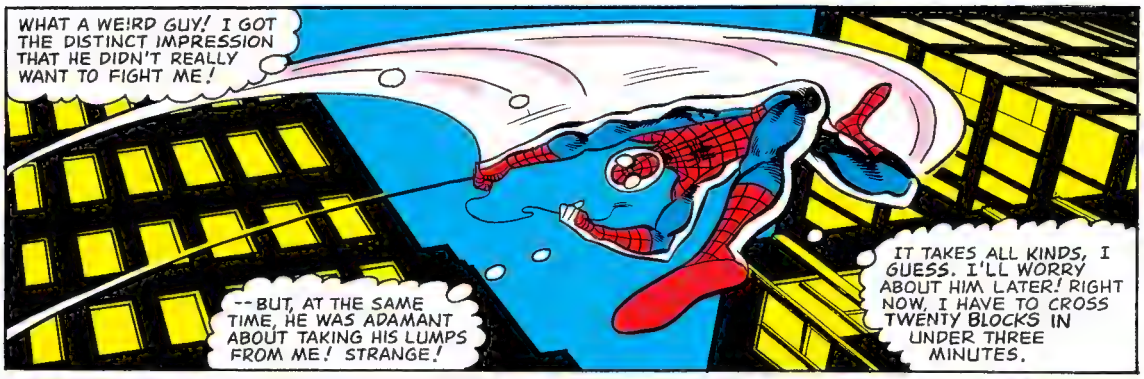

AFTER ALL, IT WOULDN'T DO FOR ME TO GET CARELESS AND ACTUALLY BE BEATEN BY THIS BUFFOON! I'D NEVER LIVE IT DOWN!
ATTABOY, RINGY! YOU KEEP THOSE RINGS A'COMING NOW!
ALLEZ-OOP!
SAY, I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN SINCE THE LAST TIME I WENT TO THE CIRCUS...
...AND THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO!

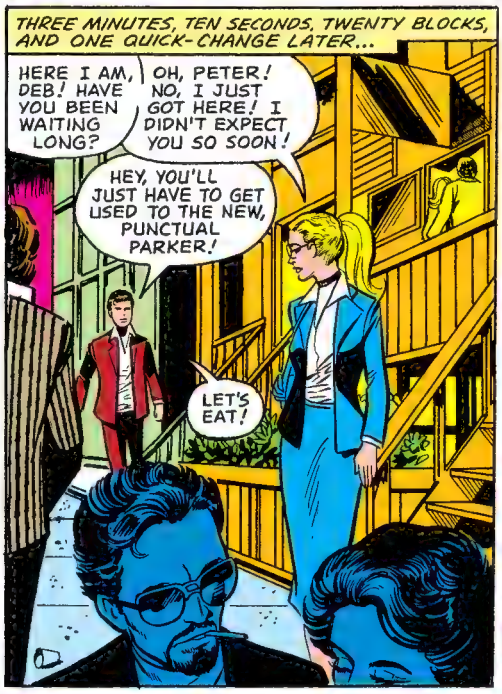

BUT THEN...
HOLY SMOKES, LOOK AT THE TIME! IF I DON'T HUSTLE, I'LL BE LATE FOR MY DATE WITH DEBBIE!

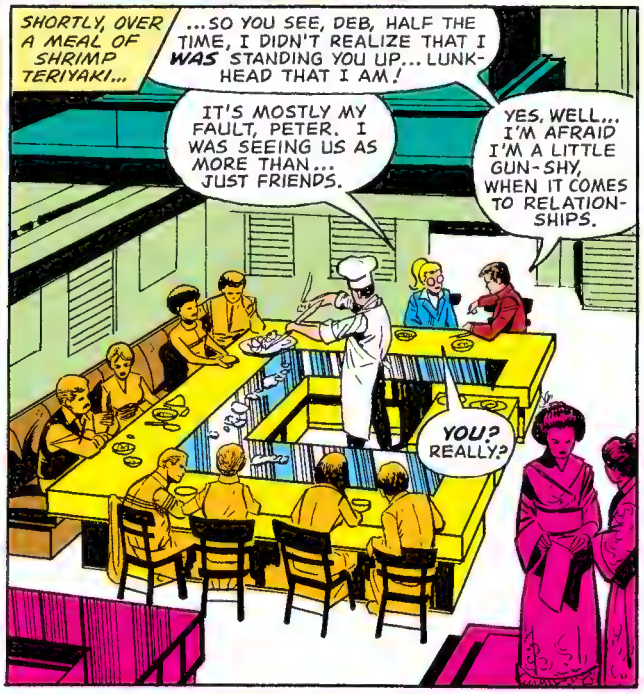

I'LL JUST CUT THIS SHORT!
SORRY TO RATTLE YOUR BICUSPIDS AGAIN, RING-A-DING, BUT MY TIME IS VERY IMPORTANT!
YOW!

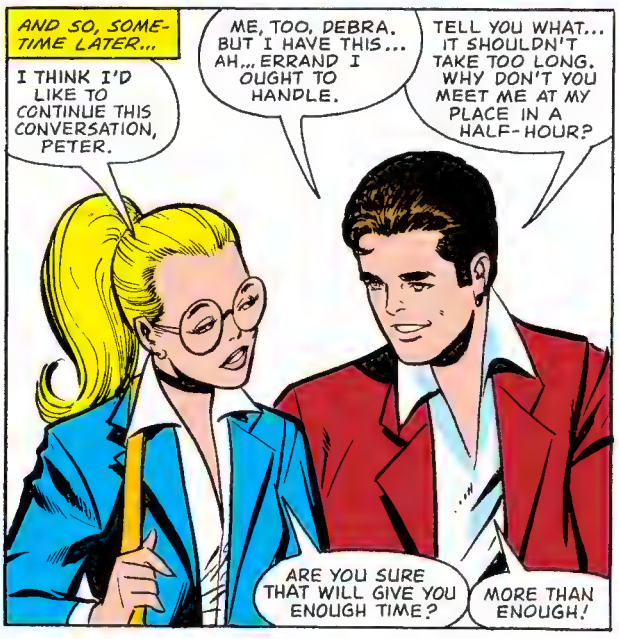
LOOK, FELLA-- I DIDN'T CATCH YOU COMMITTING A CRIME, AND I DON'T KNOW YOU FROM ADAM, WHICH MEANS THAT YOU'RE NOT AFTER ME TO SETTLE A SCORE--
--SO WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING ME?
I... I CAN'T TELL YOU! I'LL DIE IF I DO!

ALL RIGHT, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME THE TRUTH, HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO STAND AROUND AND HUMOR YOU! I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW!
OH, NO? WATCH ME!

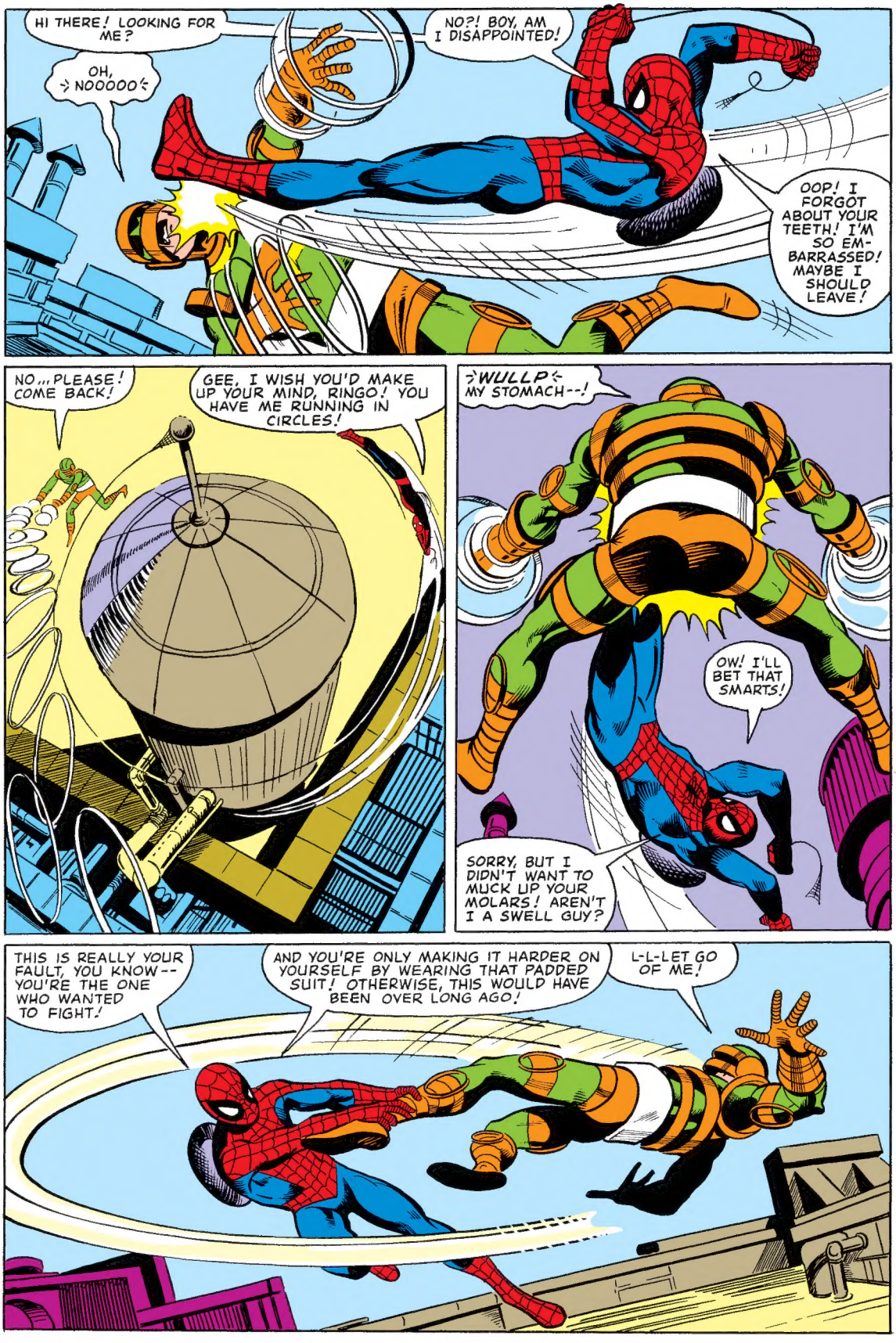

WHAT A WEIRD GUY! I GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO FIGHT ME!
--BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS ADAMANT ABOUT TAKING HIS LUMPS FROM ME! STRANGE!
IT TAKES ALL KINDS, I GUESS. I'LL WORRY ABOUT HIM LATER! RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO CROSS TWENTY BLOCKS IN UNDER THREE MINUTES.

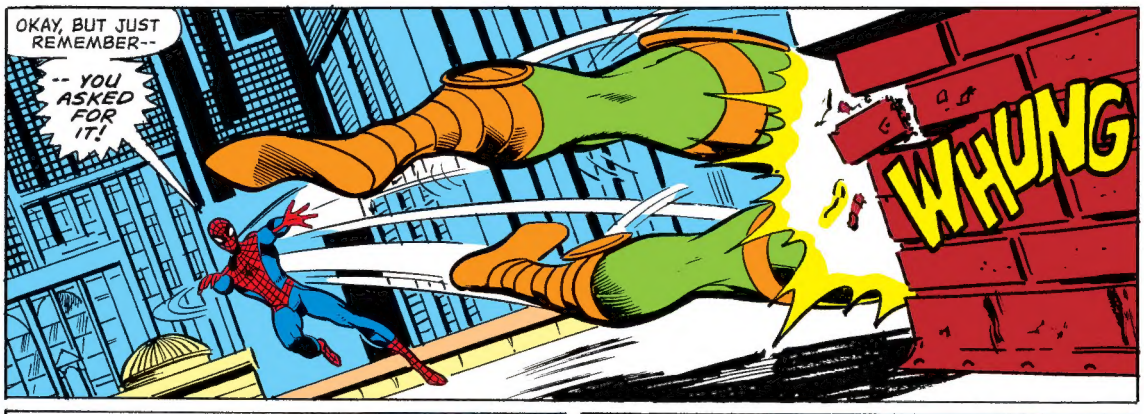

THREE MINUTES, TEN SECONDS, TWENTY BLOCKS, AND ONE QUICK-CHANGE LATER...
HERE I AM, DEB! HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING LONG?
OH, PETER! NO, I JUST GOT HERE! I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU SO SOON!
HEY, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO THE NEW, PUNCTUAL PARKER!
LET'S EAT!


SHORTLY, OVER A MEAL OF SHRIMP TERIYAKI...
...SO YOU SEE, DEB, HALF THE TIME, I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I WAS STANDING YOU UP... LUNKHEAD THAT I AM!
IT'S MOSTLY MY FAULT, PETER. I WAS SEEING US AS MORE THAN... JUST FRIENDS.
YES, WELL... I'M AFRAID I'M A LITTLE GUN-SHY, WHEN IT COMES TO RELATIONSHIPS.
YOU? REALLY?

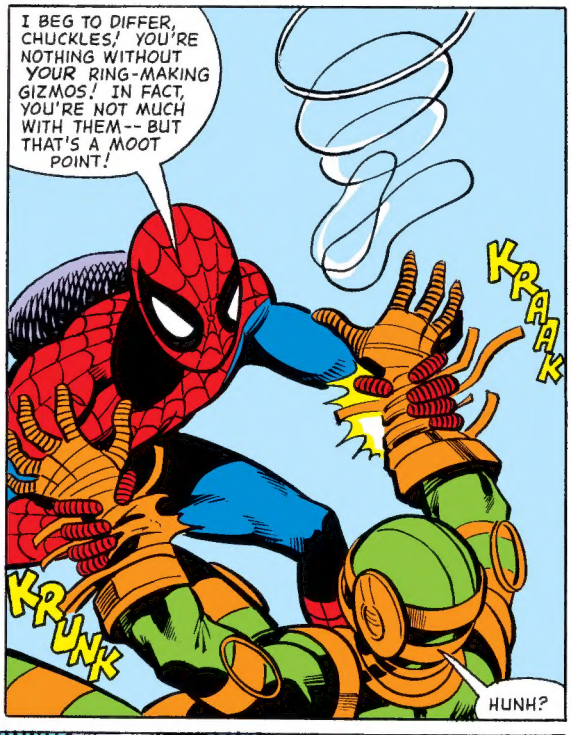

AND SO, SOMETIME LATER...
I THINK I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION, PETER.
ME, TOO, DEBRA. BUT I HAVE THIS... AH... ERRAND I OUGHT TO HANDLE.
TELL YOU WHAT... IT SHOULDN'T TAKE TOO LONG. WHY DON'T YOU MEET ME AT MY PLACE IN A HALF-HOUR?
ARE YOU SURE THAT WILL GIVE YOU ENOUGH TIME?
MORE THAN ENOUGH!

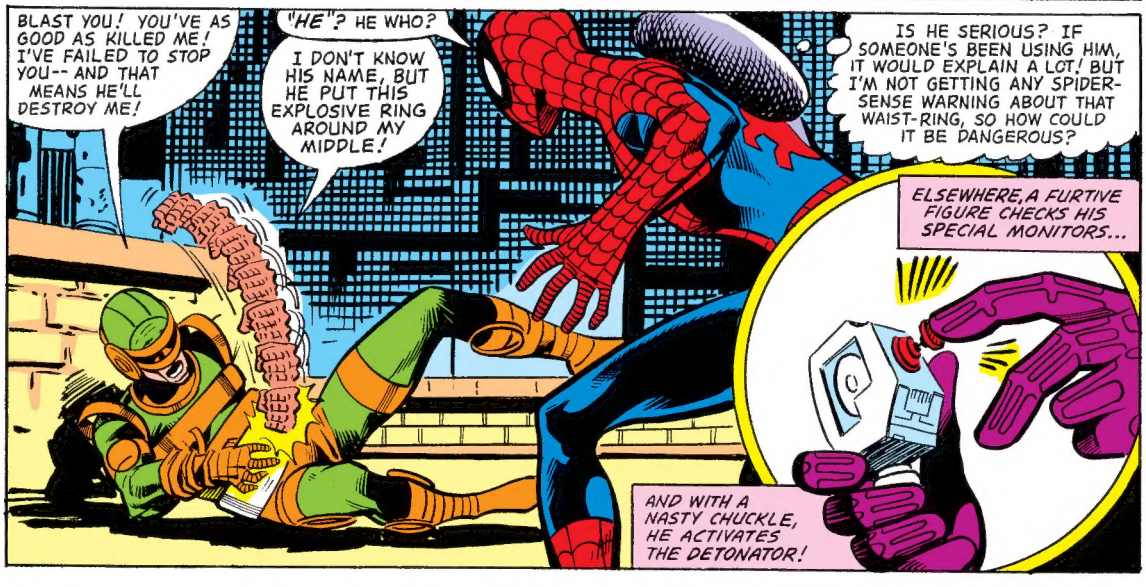
SOON, ON A MIDTOWN ROOFTOP...
HUHN-HUHN! I GOTTA FIND HIM! HUHN! I JUST GOTTA! I KNOW MY "BOSS" IS WATCHING ME SOMEHOW, AND IF I DON'T GET SPIDER-MAN, HE'LL BLOW ME TO KINGDOM COME!
BUT HOW DO I FIND HIM? I'VE BEEN RUNNING ACROSS THESE BLASTED ROOFTOPS FOR AN HOUR AND...

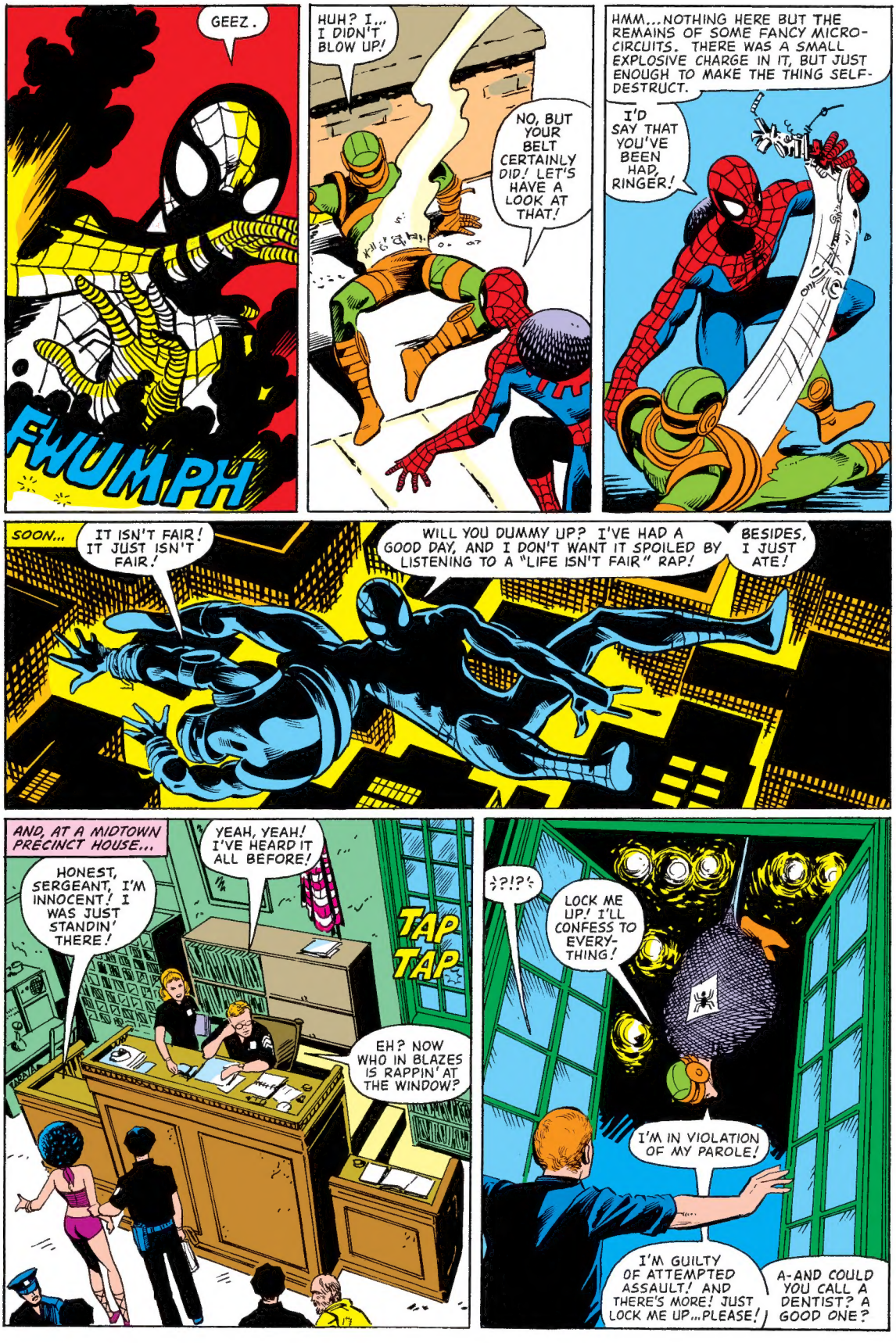

HI THERE! LOOKING FOR ME?
OH, NOOOOO!
NO?! BOY, AM I DISAPPOINTED!
OOP! I FORGOT ABOUT YOUR TEETH! I'M SO EMBARRASSED! MAYBE I SHOULD LEAVE!
NO... PLEASE! COME BACK!
GEE, I WISH YOU'D MAKE UP YOUR MIND, RINGO! YOU HAVE ME RUNNING IN CIRCLES!
WULLP
MY STOMACH--!
OW! I'LL BET THAT SMARTS!
SORRY, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO MUCK UP YOUR MOLARS! AREN'T I A SWELL GUY?
THIS IS REALLY YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW-- YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO FIGHT!
AND YOU'RE ONLY MAKING IT HARDER ON YOURSELF BY WEARING THAT PADDED SUIT! OTHERWISE, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER LONG AGO!
L-L-LET GO OF ME!


OKAY, BUT JUST REMEMBER--
-- YOU ASKED FOR IT!
WHUNG

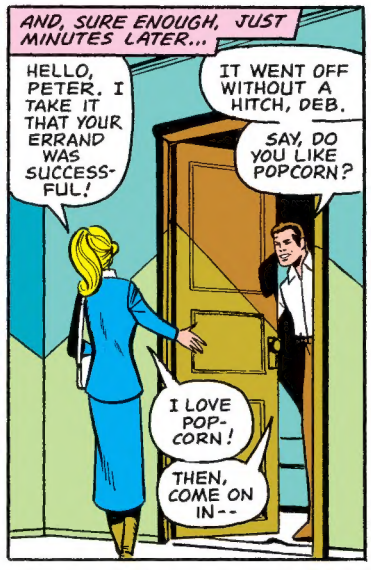
WHAT?! YOU STILL WANT TO FIGHT? WELL, YOU GET POINTS FOR PERSEVERANCE BUT YOU'LL NEVER WIN "MISS CONGENIALITY"!
I'LL GET YOU YET!


I BEG TO DIFFER, CHUCKLES! YOU'RE NOTHING WITHOUT YOUR RING-MAKING GIZMOS! IN FACT, YOU'RE NOT MUCH WITH THEM-- BUT THAT'S A MOOT POINT!
KRAAK
KRUNK
HUNH?

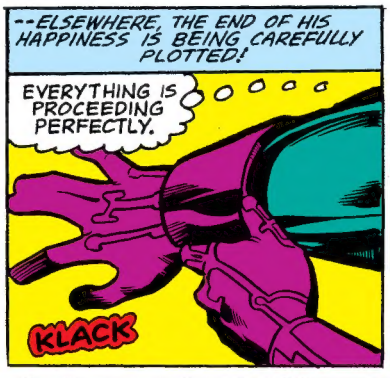

BLAST YOU! YOU'VE AS GOOD AS KILLED ME! I'VE FAILED TO STOP YOU-- AND THAT MEANS HE'LL DESTROY ME!
"HE"? HE WHO?
I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME, BUT HE PUT THIS EXPLOSIVE RING AROUND MY MIDDLE!
IS HE SERIOUS? IF SOMEONE'S BEEN USING HIM, IT WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT! BUT I'M NOT GETTING ANY SPIDER-SENSE WARNING ABOUT THAT WAIST-RING, SO HOW COULD IT BE DANGEROUS?
ELSEWHERE, A FURTIVE FIGURE CHECKS HIS SPECIAL MONITORS...
AND WITH A NASTY CHUCKLE, HE ACTIVATES THE DETONATOR!


GEEZ.
FWUMPH
HUH? I... I DIDN'T BLOW UP!
NO, BUT YOUR BELT CERTAINLY DID! LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THAT!
HMM...NOTHING HERE BUT THE REMAINS OF SOME FANCY MICRO-CIRCUITS. THERE WAS A SMALL EXPLOSIVE CHARGE IN IT, BUT JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE THE THING SELF-DESTRUCT.
I'D SAY THAT YOU'VE BEEN HAD, RINGER!
SOON...
IT ISN'T FAIR! IT JUST ISN'T FAIR!
WILL YOU DUMMY UP? I'VE HAD A GOOD DAY, AND I DON'T WANT IT SPOILED BY LISTENING TO A "LIFE ISN'T FAIR" RAP!
BESIDES, I JUST ATE!
AND, AT A MIDTOWN PRECINCT HOUSE...
HONEST, SERGEANT, I'M INNOCENT! I WAS JUST STANDIN' THERE!
YEAH, YEAH! I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE!
TAP TAP
EH? NOW WHO IN BLAZES IS RAPPIN' AT THE WINDOW?
?!?
LOCK ME UP! I'LL CONFESS TO EVERY-THING!
I'M IN VIOLATION OF MY PAROLE!
I'M GUILTY OF ATTEMPTED ASSAULT! AND THERE'S MORE! JUST LOCK ME UP...PLEASE!
A-AND COULD YOU CALL A DENTIST? A GOOD ONE?

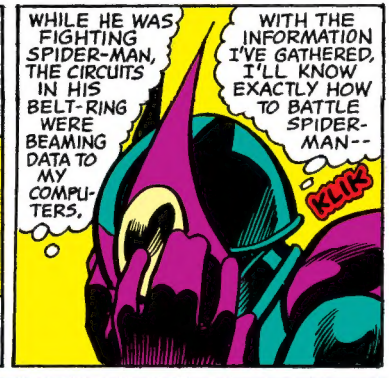
AH, THE PERFECT END TO A PERFECT DAY!
WHAT AM I THINKING? DAY IS DONE, BUT THE NIGHT IS JUST BEGINNING!
THE SWEETEST YOUNG LADY IN THE YEW-NITED STATES WILL BE KNOCKING ON MY DOOR IN MINUTES! METHINKS I SHOULD HURRY HOME!

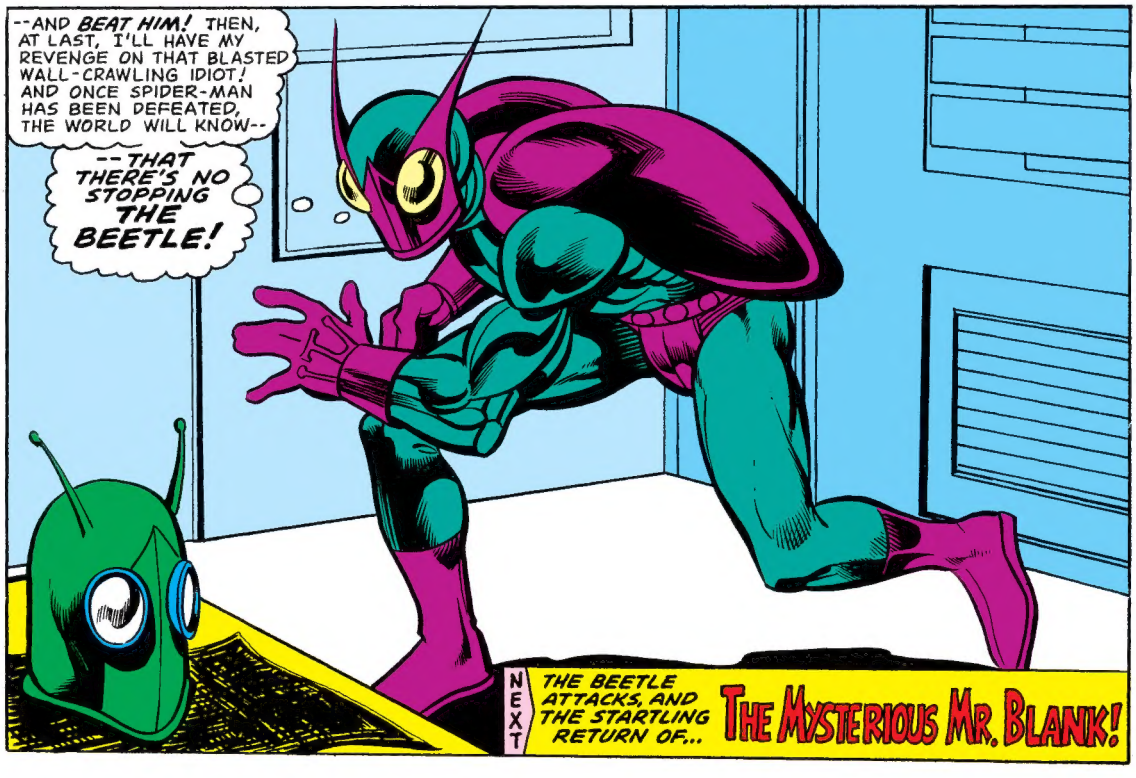

AND, SURE ENOUGH, JUST MINUTES LATER...
HELLO, PETER. I TAKE IT THAT YOUR ERRAND WAS SUCCESS-FUL!
IT WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, DEB.
SAY, DO YOU LIKE POPCORN?
I LOVE POP-CORN!
THEN, COME ON IN--

--AND WHILE I'M PUTTING THE PAN ON THE STOVE, YOU CAN TELL ME THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE!
AND, AS PETER'S DAY DRAWS TO A CLOSE--


--ELSEWHERE, THE END OF HIS HAPPINESS IS BEING CAREFULLY PLOTTED!
EVERYTHING IS PROCEEDING PERFECTLY.
KLACK

I'M GLAD I WENT TO THE TINKERER'S LAB THIS MORNING TO GET MY OWN NEW BODY ARMOR! FINDING THE RINGER WAS A STROKE OF LUCK!
KLAK
KLAK
HE MADE THE PERFECT STOOGE!


WHILE HE WAS FIGHTING SPIDER-MAN, THE CIRCUITS IN HIS BELT-RING WERE BEAMING DATA TO MY COMPU-TERS.
WITH THE INFORMATION I'VE GATHERED, I'LL KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO BATTLE SPIDER-MAN--
KLIK


--AND BEAT HIM! THEN, AT LAST, I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON THAT BLASTED WALL-CRAWLING IDIOT! AND ONCE SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN DEFEATED, THE WORLD WILL KNOW--
--THAT THERE'S NO STOPPING THE BEETLE!
NEXT
THE BEETLE ATTACKS, AND THE STARTLING RETURN OF...
THE MYSTERIOUS MR. BLANK!